

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 03356 241105Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 /046 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2219
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN

S E C R E T SANA 3356

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, SA
SUBJECT: SAUDI-YEMENI RELATIONS

REFERENCE: SANA 2873 AND SANA 2807

1. HIGH RANKING YAR OFFICIAL WHO JUST RETURNED FROM SAUDI ARABIA GAVE CHARGE ON 23 AUGUST INTERESTING ACCOUNT FROM PRINCE SULTAN OF SAUDI ACTIONS DURING AND AFTER TRIBAL SEIGE WHICH LAID ON YAR GARRISON IN SAADA IN MID-JULY. SEIGE LED TO FORCEFUL YEMENI REACTION, INCLUDING AIR STRIKES ON 19-20 JULY. SEE REFTELS.

2. SULTAN SAID HE WAS "UP ALL NIGHT" SENDING MESSAGES TO SANA AND RECEIVING REPLIES HE URGED YAR MILITARY RESTRAINT, NOT ESCALATION, AND EVENTUALLY GOT POSITIVE REPLY HE WANTED.

3. ON AUGUST 10 SHAYKH ABDALLAH BIN HUSSAIN ARRIVED IN NAHRAN WITH LARGE RETINUE OF SHAYKHS. (LARGEST NUMBER GIVEN US FOR THIS DISTINGGUISHED RETINUE IS 80, SMALLEST 40.) IN ANY CASE, SULTAN SAID, HE SENT AIRCRAFT TO BRING THEM NORTH AND PUT THEM BQ IN (BIG) GUEST HOUSE.

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4. SULTAN TOLD YEMENI OFFICIAL THAT HE "INTENDED TO KEEP ABDALLAH IN KINGDOM FOR AWHILE." (TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ABDALLAH'S STILL THERE, WINDING UP HIS SECOND WEEK.) HOWEVER, SULTAN STILL SEEKS ABDALLAH'S RETURN TO POSITION OF POWER IN YAR. HE WANTS HIM TO BE HEAD OF "COUNCIL OF TRIBES" WITH

BUDGET AND HONORS AND SOME REGIONAL POWER ASSIGNED
BY YARG.

5. REST OF SHAYKHS LEFT SOON AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL BUT
AFTER SULTAN HAD TOLD THEM THAT THE "WOULD NOT
TOLERATE ATTACKS ON THEM" BUT "COULD NOT APPROVE
THEIR ATTACKS ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT." YEMENI
OFFICIAL NOTED WRYLTY THAT SULTAN ADDED THAT SAUDIS
NOT SUPPORTING A MAN (I.E. HAMDI) BUT AN INSTITUTION
(CENTRAL GOVERNMENT). NEVERTHELESS SULTAN DID NOT
URGE SHAYKHS TO MAKE THEIR PEACE WITH GOVERNMENT.

6. SULTAN ALSO COMPLAINED THAT SAUDIS HAD LONG
HAD SPECIFIC AND DEFINITE AGREEMENT OF HAMDI
PERSONALLY TO GET RID OF RUSSIAN MILITARY ADVISORS.
HAMDI HAD, MOREOVER, AGREED AGAIN DURING LAST,
VERY STROY VISIT. "CAN I TRUST HIM?" ASKED
SULTAN.

COMMENT: SOURCE IN THIS CASE IS EXACT AND
HONEST MAN, ABDAL KARIM AL-IRYANI. FACT THAT
FIGHTING IN NORTHERN WILDERNEXI OF YEMEN COULD
KEEP SULTAN UP ALL NIGHT TESTIFIES TO CONTINUING
FEAR AND DETERMINATION WHICH YEMEN CAN INSPIRE IN
SAUDI BEHAVIOR. SULTAN WON'T ALLOW THIS TRIBAL
COHORTS TO BE CRUSHED BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AT
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LEAST NOT AS LONG AS SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS ARE IN
SANA. HE IS NOT, AT SAME TIME, PROVIDING RE-
SOURCES OR ENCOURAGEMENT TO THEM TO ATTACK CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT. THUS STALEMATE CONTINUES. SULTAN'S
IDEA OF "COUNCIL OF TRIBES" IS GOING TO BE EMPHAT-
ICALLY REJECTED IN SANA. MORE IMPORTANT, HAMDI
ISN'T LIKELY TO GIVE UP SOVIETS UNTIL HE FEELS HE IS
MASTER IN HIS OWN DOMAIN.
RANSOM

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NNN

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